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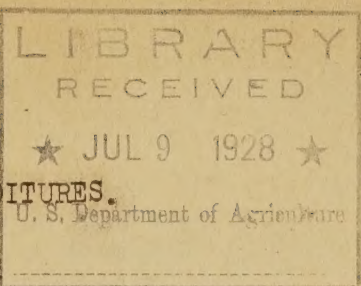


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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

ITS ORIGIN, ORGANIZATION, FUNCTIONS, AND EXPENDITURES.

Beginning of Federal Aid for Agriculture



The need of a governmental agency to assist in the development of American agriculture was seen by George Washington, who while President of the United States, suggested in his last message to Congress in 1796 the organization of a branch of the National Government to care for the interests of farmers. The matter did not take concrete form, however, until 1839 when Congress made an appropriation of \$1,000 for the purpose of collecting and distributing seeds, prosecuting agricultural investigations, and procuring agricultural statistics. The first work of this kind was placed under the direction of Commissioner of Patents Henry L. Ellsworth, and it was continued, with small increases in appropriations from year to year, under succeeding Commissioners of Patents until 1862.

Establishment of Department of Agriculture

The Department of Agriculture was created under a law passed by Congress which was signed by President Lincoln on May 15, 1862. At that time the total appropriation for the Department was \$60,000. From 1862 until 1889 the head of the Department was known as "Commissioner of Agriculture." It was not until February 9, 1889, however, that the Department was made an executive branch of the Government of first rank, its head becoming a member of the President's Cabinet, and his title being changed from "Commissioner" to "Secretary of Agriculture."

Broad Scope of Work Designed

As stated in the Act of May 15, 1862, establishing the Department of Agriculture, its "general designs and duties shall be to acquire and diffuse among the people of the United States useful information on subjects connected with agriculture in the most general and comprehensive sense of that word."

Present Organization and Administrative Functions

The Secretary of Agriculture as head of the Department exercises general supervision and control over all its affairs and formulates and establishes the general policies to be pursued by its various branches. In addition to the Secretary, the general administrative staff of the Department consists of one Assistant Secretary, who acts for the Secretary in his absence and assists in the general administrative work of the Department; five Directors -- of Scientific Work, of Regulatory Work, of Extension Work, of Personnel and Business Administration, and of Information; and other executive and administrative personnel. Each of the five Directors, reporting directly to the Secretary, has general supervision over all the work of the Department of the type which the title of his position implies. Each of the chief administrative officers mentioned above has his individual staff of assistants and clerical and other employees necessary for carrying out the duties which devolve upon him.







The actual investigational, experimental, extension, service, and regulatory activities of the Department are carried on directly by its various bureaus, at the head of each of which is a chief of bureau, who is responsible for the work of his organization. Most of the bureaus have an assistant or associate chief, and each has its administrative staff for the conduct of business or overhead operations affecting all of its subdivisions. The technical work of the bureaus is, for the most part, organized on a project basis, and each broad line of work is assigned to a separate branch. For example, in the Bureau of Entomology, all work relating to deciduous fruit insects is handled by a single branch. The same thing is true of cereal and forage insects, forest insects, truck crop insects, and so on. In some bureaus these branches are known as divisions; in others, offices, sections, etc. Each branch has as its head officer or chief a specialist in the subject matter which it handles, together with a staff of research or technical workers and a clerical personnel to look after the business end of the work. The scientific or technical staff conducts laboratory, and in some cases greenhouse, investigations and experiments at its Washington, D. C., headquarters, as well as field investigations and experiments at certain established stations and at other points in various sections of the country, as the necessities of the work may require.

Examples of Services Rendered

*revised*  
*Oct. 31/29.*  
*4,510*  
*9,458*  
The Department of Agriculture maintains a force of approximately 21,000 employees, of whom about 5,000 have headquarters at Washington, D. C., and 16,000 are stationed in the field, and its work is carried on in all of the 48 States of the Union, in the Territories of Alaska and Hawaii, in Porto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, in Europe, and in the Orient.

Its research laboratories and experiment stations are working to keep present-day production of crops and livestock and their marketing and distribution on the most efficient and economical basis, and, looking ahead, to assure to future generations of Americans adequate supplies of food and raw materials for clothing. Its experts in home economics are working to make rural as well as city homes comfortable and attractive. Its agricultural explorers are searching the world for new and better varieties of fruits and vegetables, forage crops, forest trees, and other plant cultures, also improved types of livestock, adapted to conditions in this country. The ports of entry and international borders are guarded by Department inspectors to prevent the entry of diseases and dangerous insect pests which might threaten or attack the country's crops and livestock, while its specialists are combating those which have already gained a foothold here, such as the European corn borer, hog cholera, bovine tuberculosis, etc.

The Department is engaged in studies and practical experimentation in all the economic phases of production and marketing - the business side of farming - in order to help make the basic industry of the country a







profitable one. County agents and other workers in the Agricultural Extension Service carry the results of the research work directly to rural communities. Federal inspectors are assigned to the packing houses and stockyards to assure wholesome meat for the American family. Others, experts in their various lines, administer or enforce forty or more regulatory laws enacted by Congress, such as the Food and Drugs Act, Tea Importation Act, Insecticide Act, Import Milk Act, Migratory Bird Treaty Act, Standard Container Act, Packers and Stockyards Act, Grain Futures Act, Grain Standards Act, Cotton Standards Act, Cotton Futures Act, Seed Importation Act, Plant Quarantine Act, Warehouse Act, Produce Agency Act, Naval Stores Act, and others. The Department also has charge of 160 national forest reserves, which now embrace approximately 159 million acres, supervising their use and protecting and conserving the great national resources of timber, grazing lands, etc., contained in these extensive areas, as well as developing their incidental use for outdoor recreation by the American people. Other branches of the Department protect our birds and game animals and other useful forms of wild life so that they may be preserved for future generations. Everyone is familiar with the general and local weather forecasts issued by the Department, but the work performed by its meteorologists along special lines is not so well known except by those most directly and vitally concerned. Storm warnings to ships at sea, cold-wave and frost warnings in the fruit growing districts, and lightning storm forecasts in forest areas are, for instance, some of the more important activities of this type. The Department also conducts studies in rural engineering, dealing with questions of farm machinery, irrigation, drainage, etc., and its highway engineers carry on experiments in road building and administer the Federal-aid funds voted by Congress for highway construction in the various States. The Department itself builds extensive roads and trails in and adjacent to the national forests.

#### Publications

The results of the Department's research work are published in a series of technical bulletins, which may be obtained by any interested party from the Government Printing Office, Washington, D. C., at a nominal cost. Information on agricultural subjects is also prepared in practical form and issued as Farmers' Bulletins which are sent free of cost to any applicant. Hundreds of personal letters are also sent out daily to correspondents all over the United States and in foreign countries in answer to inquiries on agricultural and related subjects.

#### Extension Activities

In addition to supplying data in printed form and by letter, the Department cooperates with the various State colleges of agriculture in carrying directly to the farmer and his family the information developed by the investigational and experimental work of the Federal Department and the State experiment stations through their extension agencies. This extension work is conducted through county agents, home demonstration agents, boys' and girls' club agents, and by specialists in certain lines







of activity. It consists of personal instruction, visual demonstrations, lecture courses, farmers' institutes, etc. It brings the Federal and State extension forces into direct contact with the farmer and his family on their own farm. In this work, the county agricultural agent is the principal means of direct contact, capable agriculturists being cooperatively employed by the Department and the State colleges of agriculture and stationed in the various counties of the States for the express purpose of giving information to farmers as to the best practices to be followed in producing and marketing their crops.

#### Close Cooperation with State Agencies

The Department conducts much of its work in close cooperation with various agencies in the States. For instance, a large part of its crop and livestock research work is carried on in cooperation with the State agricultural experiment stations. As previously stated, practically all of its extension work is done in cooperation with the State colleges of agriculture. Considerable regulatory and pest control work is performed in cooperation with State Departments or Boards of Agriculture. Cooperation is maintained with State sanitary and livestock boards in campaigns for the control of bovine tuberculosis and other animal diseases, and with other State agencies for the control of European corn borer, gipsy moth, and Japanese beetle, eradication of common barberry (for the control of the black-stem rust of wheat), control of white-pine blister rust, citrus canker, etc. Similar cooperation is also in effect with State marketing bureaus, forestry departments, etc. The Federal Department does not exercise control over State activities, however, except in so far as interstate relations may be involved in connection with law enforcement functions or where Federal funds are granted to the States under legislation providing for their expenditure under Department supervision.

#### Expenditures

The Department of Agriculture is supported by appropriations made annually by Congress for the purpose and paid out by the Federal Treasury. This money comes from various sources, including customs receipts and direct taxation. During the fiscal year which ended June 30, 1927, over \$153,000,000 was expended for work administered by the Department. Nearly \$83,000,000 of this total, however, represented Federal aid to States for road-construction purposes, and \$9,000,000 more went for forest roads and trails. The total of \$153,000,000 was distributed approximately as





follows:

Regular or ordinary activities of department .....	\$47,000,000
Special forestry and wild-life conservation (including cooperation with States in forest fire suppression and purchase of additional forest lands and lands for a wild-life refuge, but exclusive of expenditures for administering existing forest reserves) .....	1,900,000
Payments to States for county roads and schools from receipts derived from timber sales, grazing permits, and other business on the national forests; and Forest Service cooperative work supported by private contributions .....	3,300,000
Payments to State agricultural experiment stations, for research work in agriculture and home economics under the Hatch, Adams, and Purnell Acts .....	2,900,000
Payments to State agricultural colleges, for extension work in agriculture and home economics under the Smith-Lever Act .....	5,900,000
Payments to State highway departments for Federal-aid road construction .....	83,000,000
Forest road and trail construction .....	9,000,000
Total .....	153,000,000

The \$47,000,000 expended for the regular or ordinary activities of the Department was distributed approximately as follows:

Research (the scientific study or investigation of the fundamental problems of agriculture, horticulture, forestry, etc.) .....	\$10,600,000, or 22.6%
Extension work (educational work or the dissemination of information developed by the Department's experiments and discoveries, through county agents, exhibits, motion pictures, etc.) .....	2,400,000, or 5.1%
Eradication or control of plant and animal diseases, insects, and other pests through organized campaigns (not primarily involving research).....	9,000,000 or 19.1%
Service activities, or work of a constructive character for the benefit of the public, not primarily involving research, including such activities as national forest administration, weather service, crop estimating, market news and inspection services, etc.....	15,000,000 or 31.9%
Regulatory, or law-enforcement, work .....	10,000,000 or 21.3%
Total .....	47,000,000 or 100.0%



